

## EL PASO SUPPLIES 15,000 U. S. TROOPS

### Best Building Year In City's History

### RECORD SET BY THE PAST YEAR

Building Figures for the Year  
Total Over \$3,600,000  
With No Let Up.

NO BOOM; JUST  
STEADY GROWTH

Business Buildings, Bungalows, Fine Homes Keep Industrial Army Working.

BY L. C. TAINAGE.  
WITH the beginning of work on the new \$500,000 high school and the \$800,000 court house, unprecedented bungalow and apartment building, with construction work in every section of the city in a great variety of lines, the year 1915 broke all previous records in building activity and placed El Paso at the head of all Texas cities in the value of improvements.

It was a wonderful year in El Paso, made so by the fact that building activity was progressing uninterruptedly when every other Texas city was complaining of hard times. During all this time there was no change in the disturbed conditions in Mexico and El Paso could look to the country to the south with little hope of business from that direction. A few refugees, seeking the protection afforded by the United States, came to El Paso, bringing with them considerable money, but this was as nothing compared with what would have come to the city in the way of trade had there been peace in Mexico. Mexico contributed but little to the prosperity of 1915.

**Designated as Trade Center.**  
It was from the city's territory north of the Rio Grande that the prosperity came from West Texas, Arizona and New Mexico and the influx of new citizens from other parts of the country attracted by the bright prospects of the city. The revival of mining in Arizona and New Mexico, particularly in the copper camps, and the high prices of cattle and sheep, brought to the Southwest a prosperity that was bound to be reflected in El Paso, the chief trade center.

Much outside capital from these sections came to El Paso for investment, and many well-to-do mining men and ranchmen came to the city to make their home. But while outside influences had much to do with the city's prosperity, the greatest factor in its growth was in a large measure due to the confidence of home people in the future of the community. The lack of real estate property led many residents to build their own homes, while the great demand for apartments led to phenomenal building of flats and renting houses.

**Building Permits Tell of Great Growth.**  
While the record of building permits issued by the city building inspector cannot be ascertained as an accurate barometer of the city's building activity, for the reason that they include no work in El Paso's rapidly growing suburbs, they nevertheless tell a story of great prosperity during the year 1915. At the close of business in the office of city building inspector, N. A. Comstock on December 31, the records showed that during the year 1915 permits had been issued, representing improvements valued at \$3,612,418, the greatest year's work in the history of the city and the record for any Texas community during the same period.

The nearest approach to the year 1915 was in 1912, when \$2,217,828 worth of improvements were made within the city limits. The record of 1915 by months was as follows:

Month	Permits Valuation
January	\$223,225
February	177,429
March	212,570
April	235,741
May	446,467
June	226,356
July	211,187
August	268,919
September	258,435
October	215,585
November	180,217
December	161,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,612,418</b>

**December's Big Total.**  
The heavy record of permits in December was due to the issuance of a permit for \$425,000 to J. E. Morgan for the building of the new county court house, one for \$372,550 to the American Construction company for the completion of the new high school building, one for \$21,000 for the building of an addition to the Alta Vista school, and the general run of construction work.

In comparison with previous years, the year 1915 looms large, as is shown by the figures of the past six years, the years covering the period of the city's most active building. The figures are as follows:

Year	Permits Valuation
1910	\$1,112,987
1911	1,842,248
1912	2,217,828
1913	2,445,585
1914	1,524,287
1915	3,612,418

Military Commander  
Of Border Patrol



GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING.

sides, thus adding five feet of space to the sidewalk. In its construction the main portion of the present building, which was not disturbed, and when completed it will be merely a matter of transferring of the old building to the new structure. When the old building is vacated it will be torn down to make room for the auditorium to be constructed in connection with the new building. The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 4000 and will be the largest assembly hall in the Southwest.

**Ground Floor Arrangement.**  
The ground floor of the new building, built three feet above the level of the sidewalk, will provide space for two justice courts, the hall of records, of the sheriff, superintendent of county schools, surveyor, road engineer and a room for the Associated churches.

**Arrangement of Upper Floors.**  
The second floor will contain the offices of the collector, assessor, auditor, county clerk, county judge, county attorney, the treasurer and auditor, the county court room and the county commissioners' court room.

On the third and fourth floors will be located the district courts. There will be four court rooms, one for each of the three existing courts, and for a fourth, should the growth of the district warrant the creation of another. Here also will be the jury rooms, grand jury room, and the offices of the district clerk and the district attorney. Private rooms for the judges will also be provided.

The front portion of the fifth floor will be equipped for the eighth court of civil appeals, while the rear will form the first floor of the county jail. All of the sixth floor will be devoted to the sheriff's office and equipment.

In the basement will be the heating plant, ventilating and air cooling plant, power plant, ice and water plant, store room and the janitor's quarters.

**Will Have Large Auditorium.**  
The auditorium will be 151x125 feet in dimension, with a 50-foot ceiling. The space between the two wings of the main building will be occupied by the auditorium and this part of the building will extend back to within 22 feet of the Overland street property line.

It will contain a stage located at the north end and a balcony extending around the east, south and west sides. The principal entrances will be from the Overland street side, although there will also be entrances to the balcony from the main building.

**Of Steel and Concrete.**  
The shell of the building will be constructed of steel and concrete. The facings will be of brick and the trimmings of terra cotta. A feature of the exterior construction will be a colonnade on the San Antonio street side, consisting of 12 fluted terra cotta columns, set in a balcony and extending from the second to the fifth floor. On the Kansas and Campbell street sides balconies will be built. The main entrance, opening into a large hallway, will be on the San Antonio street side.

J. E. Morgan, who was awarded the contract for the construction of the building, has excavation work under way, and the building should be completed within a year.

**Contracts Exceed Half a Million.**  
Contracts that have been let for the building total \$594,574. The contract of Mr. Morgan for the building of the court house and auditorium is \$425,000, of which he will receive \$164,571 in cash and \$170,000 in scrip. The contract for heating, ventilating and installation of the power plant was let to the Hamilton company of Dallas, amounting to

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### ROSES THRIVE IN THE CLIMATE OF EL PASO

Australian Rye Is the Best for Lawn Purposes if Cared for.

SOME POINTERS ON GARDENING

Yard Gardening and Back Yard Orcharding Popular and Successful.

BY G. A. MARTIN.  
ROSES thrive and blossom in El Paso as in few places in the country. Unknown here as a yard decoration a very few years ago, today they grow in hundreds of yards and some of the prettiest blossoms imaginable are gathered by El Paso growers.

There is nothing difficult about growing roses in El Paso. The winter are never severe enough to damage the plants and it is not necessary, once they have gained a season's growth, to give them the protection required in colder climates. In summer, the temperature never appears to get warm enough to affect them. Very few of the diseases that attack roses in other places are found here among the plants. The American Beauty thrives exceptionally well in El Paso.

**Rose Diseases.**  
Last year in July, the writer saw roses in California that looked much worse than roses in El Paso at the same period. The California roses were mildew, many were being attacked by parasites and many had developed diseases that caused the leaves to dry up and fall off before the rose was ready to bloom.

In El Paso, these things seldom have to be contended with. The right selection of soil, the proper planting and a little care in watering and fertilizing will produce splendid roses. Heavy soil, such as is found in the valley, is considered best for rose growing, but some of the prettiest roses in the city have been produced in the sand of Government hill; some of the thriftiest growers and bloomers have been brought up in that soil.

**Heavy Soil Preferable.**  
However, many rose growers prefer the heavier soil and if they do not remove the soil from their beds and refill them with adobe, they use adobe around the roots in planting. Silt from the valley and adobe is not considered by experts as good for the reason that it is impossible to tell what it contains, without an analysis.

Soil for roses should be prepared now, and roses should be put out in February. Early in March is still time, but roses put out in February appear to take hold in the earth better and to put on a better growth before the winter catches them. They also come into bloom earlier. Practically any variety of rose will grow here, except the Marechal Niel. Some have grown this rose here until it bloomed. Whether there are any of them here now is not known, but nurserymen do not recommend them, in fact some nurserymen admit candidly that they never have been able to make a Marechal Niel grow at all.

**Avoid Crimson Rambler.**  
The crimson rambler does not do well here, as a general rule, because it appears to be unusually susceptible to mildew and even in this climate, the crimson rambler will show mildew when the nights are the least bit cool in growing time. Other roses appear not to be affected so easily. The dry climate is given as the reason for the absence of mildew on most roses in this city and section.

For planting roses, the soil should be prepared in the fall or winter, the bed well turned up with a spading fork and plenty of rotted manure mixed into it. Very little will need to be done the first season, after the roses are planted in well prepared beds, as roses, like other plants, freshly set out, do not require fertilizing for the first few months. After that, they should be watched and given what they need.

**Feeding the Roses.**  
Manure put scattered over the tops of the beds in which the roses are planted, kept back away from the plants themselves, is generally sufficient to keep them properly fed but

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### IN THE BORDER ARMY CAMP



Top picture shows a camp bakery in operation; next picture part of an infantry regimental camp; next "officers' row" in the Sixth infantry camp, showing vines planted before the tents. The bottom picture shows a sentry pacing post down a company street.

It is sometimes necessary to mix a little lime into the soil or scatter nitrate of potash or nitrate of soda in small quantities over the tops of the beds, to be soaked into the soil with the water. A teaspoonful to a square yard of soil is the amount recommended by H. A. Harris, former park commissioner of El Paso and regarded as the leading authority on plants and flowers in this part of the Southwest. Meat and dead fowls are buried by some rosegrowers about their rose bushes and these are said to bring excellent results. Mr. Harris says the nitrate of potash will accomplish the same results, as it supplies the soil elements of nitrogen and phosphate which the meat and bones supply.

**Fertilizers Required.**  
The absence of vegetable matter in the El Paso soil is largely the cause of the necessity for fertilization of roses, trees and shrubs. Located on a hillside, where little has ever grown, the soil of the greater part of El Paso is without humus. The growth and decay year after year of vegetable matter forms the humus that is found in soil more favorably located. The absence of any such vegetation upon the soil of El Paso leaves it rather short of some of the necessary elements for plant life, but, notwithstanding this, vegetation grows well here and most growers accomplish all their needs merely by the generous mixture of stable manure with the earth in

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## BIG ARMY DEPOT IN CITY OF EL PASO

\$700,000 a Month Distributed Here to the Soldiers Along the Border.

FORT BLISS IS MADE GREATER

Enlargements Will Continue—El Paso Is Important Strategic Position.

FOR five years now United States military men have been busy on the border.

What this activity has meant, is meaning and will in the future mean to El Paso, cannot be overestimated. From its very position, commercially and geographically, El Paso is one of the strong strategic points along the southern United States boundary. It is destined to become a great military base. It is the logical point of supply for that vast territory from the mouth of the Rio Grande, at Brownsville, to San Diego on the Pacific coast, a distance of some 1700 miles.

More than this, from El Paso, troops could be rushed by rail into the very heart of Mexico and other troops can at the same time come into El Paso over the great trunk lines from the east, north and west.

As early as 1911, the war department recognized the importance of El Paso in connection with the always difficult Mexican question. During the early days of the Madero revolution, troops were hurried here and this city became the pivot point in the border patrol of those days. It has remained so for five years.

**The Present Fort Bliss.**  
El Paso has had a post in various parts of the city since the time it was the village of Franklin, but the present Fort Bliss military reservation was established by congress in 1898. The post contains 1254.7 acres and the land was secured from R. D. Russell, Dr. Edward Alexander, W. J. Cieson, Richard L. Mayor, Charles R. Moorehead and B. H. Davis. The present post represents an investment of about \$1,500,000.

Fort Bliss was originally only a battalion station, but later it was made a cavalry post and now it is fully equipped for a regiment of mounted men. It is now the home of the Eighth cavalry and, in addition, headquarters eighth brigade. General John J. Pershing, commander, Seventh and eighth regiments of infantry, field company, signal corps, field hospital No. 3; battery A, Fifth field artillery (a light battery); pack train No. 4, ambulance company No. 1; headquarters and two battalions of the Fourth field artillery (mountain batteries) and a cantonment, headquarters, post hospital, corps of engineers, quartermaster's department, signal corps, and permanent garrisons of the local army post has been due to the fact that the war department has placed here the first concentration of troops at El Paso in 1911.

**A Big Post.**  
In addition to the quarters, barracks and stables for a regiment of cavalry, Fort Bliss contains buildings for a general officers' quarters, the new head of the quartermaster corps, an assembly hall, headquarters and administration building, staff officers' quarters, post hospital, quartermaster's depot, work shops, gymnasium, bakery, pumping plant and the store houses for ordnance, signal corps and engineering. The troops in camp at the post have excellent, though temporary, quarters and all camps have water systems, electric light and other conveniences.

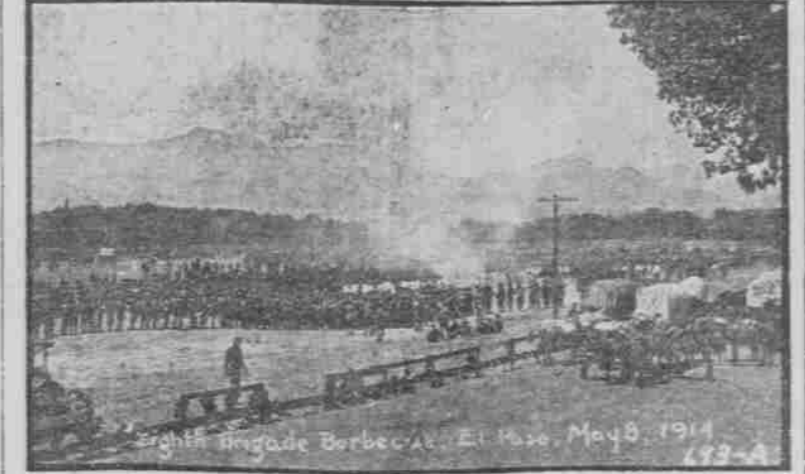
The post has three very good wells, with a capacity of 250,000 gallons of water per day and also good railroad sidings.

**A Big Job.**  
To keep an establishment of this size going is no small undertaking. Most of the burden falls on the shoulders of the supply officer. Captain A. P. Watts, of the quartermaster corps, is the post quartermaster, a position he has filled for the past three years. He not only handles all the quartermaster corps work, which now includes the feeding of the garrison, but he also is at the head of the ordnance, signal corps and engineer department supply depot, located at the post. In the quartermaster corps alone he has about 100 men. He is in charge of the post bakery and supplies fresh bread to six regiments.

Capt. Watts keeps in his storehouses four complete units of a field bakery and has the quartermaster corps personnel for this outfit at the post. He is considered one of the best quartermasters in the service and is one of the most popular officers ever stationed in or about El Paso. The disbursements of his office are about a million and a half dollars a year.

Many Troops Constantly Here.  
Ever since the Mexican crisis of 1911, when a demonstration of force was made along the border, there have been from five to eight regiments of troops of all arms of the service in and about the city of El Paso. At present two regiments are quartered in town—the Sixth infantry under Col. J. H. Beacom in the Second ward, and the 16th infantry, commanded by Col. W. H. Alhaise, in Cotton addition. These camps were little more than dusty clearings two years ago, yet today each camp is

### BANQUET TO 5000 MEN



This is a picture of the great barbecue given the border patrol troops by the citizens of El Paso at Washington park. Five thousand men were fed at this affair.

### A CAMP ON THE RIO



Looking down upon an infantry camp on the Rio Grande, in the lower portion of El Paso. The Franklin canal is seen between the river and the camp. The river runs in the distance.

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